

Dr. Michael Dourson, Nominee for Head of EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

- ✓ Dr. Michael Dourson is toxicologist with certification from the American Board of Toxicology. He is also a Fellow for the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and the Society for Risk Analysis.
- ✓ During his time at EPA, he was one of the founders of EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), a program that identifies and characterizes the health hazards of chemicals found in the environment.
- ✓ EPA awarded Dr. Michael Dourson four bronze medals for work on EPA's IRIS, ambient water criteria, sewage sludge rulemaking, and risk methods throughout his 15-year tenure at the Agency. He also received the Society of Toxicology's Lehman award for risk assessment, the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology International Achievement Award for risk sciences, and an Environmental Stewardship award from the State of West Virginia, among many others.
- ✓ He served as a member of EPA's Science Advisory Board for six years, and had held leadership roles at the following organizations:
 - ✓ American Board of Toxicology: president
 - ✓ Society of Toxicology: president of three specialty sections (risk, mixtures and regulatory, and safety evaluation)
 - ✓ Society for Risk Analysis: secretary and chair of the Dose Response Specialty Group
 - ✓ Toxicology Education Foundation: president

Myth: EPA's nominee to oversee chemical safety at the EPA, has for years, accepted payments for criticizing studies that raised concerns about the safety of his clients' products.

- ✓ **Reality:** The nonprofit risk organization that Dr. Michael Dourson founded, Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment - TERA, has spent 1/3 of its time working with industry sponsors and 2/3 of its time working with government sponsors. Sixty-seven percent of Dr. Dourson's peer reviewed publications was sponsored by government or self-sponsored.

Myth: TERA research has been underwritten by industry trade and lobbying groups.

- ✓ **Reality:** TERA, an independent non-profit organization, does work to protect human health by conducting scientific research and development on risk issues in a transparent and collaborative fashion. TERA's multiple websites include numerous projects and information that demonstrate this transparent and/or collaborative work. An additional ten to twenty percent of TERA's effort is pro bono.

Myth: Dr. Michael Dourson is an industry scientist.

- ✓ **Reality:** After working at EPA for 15 years where he won four bronze medals and helped establish the IRIS program to identify and characterize chemical risks, he founded TERA in 1995 as a nonprofit corporation. TERA later applied for and received a 501 c3. Its mission is to support the protection of public health by developing, reviewing and communicating risk assessment values and analyses; improving risk methods through research; and, educating risk assessors, managers, and the public on risk assessment issues.
- ✓ In fact, Dr. Dourson provided scientific expertise on three different occasions for plaintiffs suing industry about the devastating health effects that could occur from exposures to TCE, hydrogen sulfide and pesticides. An example can be found here.

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Myth: TERA develops positions that support the positions of those that sponsor their work.

- ✓ **Reality:** TERA has on numerous occasions develop risk positions that did not favor a particular sponsor and/or was the same or lower than the safe level set by governments at the time. **TERA's conclusions are based on the best available science at the time of its analysis.**
- **MCHM:** Dr. Dourson lead a panel of experts from two states and two countries, which recommended the level of MCHM (the chemical in the recent West Virginia Elk river spill) to be 8-fold more protective than the level set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - **1-Bromopropane:** TERA developed a lower safety level than EPA's safety level in 2004.
 - **Perchlorate:** Because of TERA's work, the safe level for perchlorate became 500X lower than the original industry value. TERA's work, which was subsequently and independently published in a peer reviewed journal, resulted in millions of dollars in additional research spent on perchlorate studies.
 - **1-4 Dioxane:** TERA, in collaboration with five states, Japan and the National Toxicology Program (NTP), developed new science to evaluate the safety level. This science is currently being used by Health Canada.
 - **PFOA:** At the request of the State of West Virginia, TERA served on a panel of 10 experts, including EPA, ATSDR and WVA, to set the safety level of PFOA. As a result of the work, TERA received an environmental stewardship award from the State.
 - **TCE:** TERA helped build a coalition of government and scientific experts to develop a safety range using EPA's methods which is currently being considered by several states for assessing TCE contamination issues.
 - **Chlorpyrifos:** TERA's research in 2006 confirmed the safety levels set by international bodies, including the World Health Organization (WHO).

Additional Information:

- ✓ National Institutes of Health (NIH), International Toxicity Estimates for Risk (ITER): <https://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/newtoxnet/iter.htm>
- ✓ University of Cincinnati Risk Science Center: <https://med.uc.edu/eh/centers/rsc>
- ✓ Alliance for Risk Assessment: <https://med.uc.edu/eh/centers/rsc/risk-resources/ara>
- ✓ Occupational Alliance for Risk Science: <https://med.uc.edu/eh/centers/rsc/risk-resources/oars>

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